

**From:** Edward Ray  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
**Date:** 12/11/01 1:28pm  
**Subject:** Microsoft Settlement

Dear Ms. Hesse:

This letter is in response to the proposed settlement between Microsoft and the Department of Justice. I believe this agreement does nothing to protect the consumer, private industry, and government from the prior excesses of Microsoft. I urge you to reject the settlement on those grounds. Microsoft has used its monopoly of the PC desktop to further its own ends at the expense of others. While this may seem like fair competition it reduces the competitors to Microsoft. As a consumer, I already have to put up with buggy software which is exploited by hackers almost daily. If it were not for open source programs like Linux and BSD, the consumer would have little choice. This settlement allows Microsoft to continue to incorporate free code from the open source community, modify it so it will only work for Windows OS machines, then release it as its own proprietary software.

The original remedy had its merit, but I also believe that industry should break up companies. If you allow this settlement to go through, please make sure that impartial, intelligent people sit on the three member panel. Steve Satchell's name comes to mind as an excellent candidate.

Regards,

Edward W. Ray  
P.O. Box 2488  
Orange, CA 92859